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PENISTONE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1947

Dr. J. MAIN RUSSELL — *Medical Officer of Health*

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Dr. J. MAIN RUSSELL — *Medical Officer of Health*

PENISTONE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1947.

Councillor C. CARTER, J.P. (Chairman).
,, H. BOSTWICK.
,, W. BRIGGS.
,, G. W. CHAMPION.
,, G. CHAPPELL.
,, J. DURRANS, J.P.
,, W. GLEDHILL.
,, T. H. HINCHLIFFE, J.P.
,, J. LEES.
,, S. PALMER.
,, F. TAYLOR.
,, G. R. TINKER.
,, F. WILLIAMS.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

ALFRED A. MASSER (Resigned 30th June, 1947).
J. MAIN RUSSELL, M.B.Ch.,B. (Edin.) B.Hy., D.P.H.
(Commenced duties 1/7/47.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

W. FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Leeds).
(Commenced duties 18/8/47.)

Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDSWORTH, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.E.J.B., Cert. M. & F.I.

PENISTONE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health's Interim Annual Report for 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Penistone Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Interim Annual Report upon the health services of the Penistone Urban District for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

In a circular dated 31st December, 1947, the Ministry of Health stated that the report for 1947 should follow upon similar lines to those of previous years, all relevant data being retained in the event of a more comprehensive report at a later date.

At the same time, detailed information was requested regarding such information as Water Supplies, Drainage and Sewerage.

Information was also requested about Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases, Diphtheria Immunisation and Poliomyelitis. Except for Poliomyelitis, however, your authority is not responsible and, therefore, no details are made in this report.

The Vital Statistics for the district for 1947 are not unfavourable. The Birth Rate and the Death Rate bear comparison with those rates for the Country generally. The Infant Mortality Rate is rather high at 26 per 1,000 live births, but we must remember that we are dealing with very small numbers, and in such circumstances one is reluctant to be very critical when "reading" statistics obtained from such numbers. You will also recall that the Registrar General used to issue to each district a "comparability factor," which when applied to a district's statistics, produced a figure which rendered them capable of being compared with those of other districts. However, the large and varied movements of local populations of recent years and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have combined to frustrate any attempt to secure such a factor and, in fact, no such factor has been issued within recent years.

This report is prepared according to information received from my predecessor for the first half of the year, and from those statistics collected by me during the second half of the year.

You will recall that I took up my duties as your Medical Officer of Health on the 1st July, 1947, when the scheme for Divisional Administration of the Preventive Medical Services of the West Riding County Council became operative in this area. This scheme for the decentralisation of certain health services under the administration of a Divisional Medical Officer, came into being in the West Riding in 1947, and there are 31 such Divisions. Each Division is made up of groups of County District Councils and the Divisional Medical Officer acts as Medical Officer of Health for each respective authority. This Division, No. 22, is made up of the Urban Districts of Hoyland Nether, Penistone and Stocksbridge, and the Rural Districts of Penistone and Wortley.

In conclusion, I wish to put on record my grateful thanks for the help and the courtesy afforded to me by the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, the Clerk and other officials, and in particular the loyalty, help and kindness of my Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Holdsworth.

I also wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks the very valuable help and support received from my Deputy, Dr. Wm. Ferguson. Without his unfailing loyalty I could not have carried out my duties so smoothly during recent months, since the coming into being of the Divisional Administration.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MAIN RUSSELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

District Statistics in Brief.

The Penistone Urban District covers an area of 5,593 acres. The number of occupied houses in the district is 1,939.

The rateable value of the district is £30,169, and the product of a penny rate is £120 as at 31st December, 1947.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The Registrar General has given his estimation of the population at mid-1947 as 5,891.

Births.

There were 115 live births registered in the district during 1947. Of these 57 were males and 58 females. There were 6 illegitimate births, 4 males and 2 females.

The **Birth Rate** is 19.5 per 1,000 of the population.

Still-Births.

There was one still-birth registered during the year. This gives a rate of 8.61 per 1,000 live and still births, and 0.18 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths.

70 Deaths were attributed to the district during 1947. Of these, 43 were males and 27 females.

The **Death Rate** is 11.9 per 1,000 of the population. The following table shows the principal causes of death :—

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Infective Diseases.			
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ..	2	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Influenza	1	—	1
Cancer.			
Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	1	—	1
Stomach and Duodenum	—	2	2
Other sites	4	1	5
Circulatory System.			
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	1	6	7
Heart Diseases	17	12	29
Other circulatory Diseases	2	—	2
Respiratory System.			
Bronchitis	4	—	4
Digestive System.			
Other digestive diseases	—	1	1
Genito-Urinary System.			
Nephritis	1	—	1
Infants.			
Premature Birth	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and/or Infant Diseases	—	2	2
Violence.			
Violent Causes	—	1	1
All Other Causes	7	2	9
All Causes ..	43	27	70

The following table gives some comparative statistics showing how the district compares generally with the rest of the Administrative County and the Country as a whole.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

	Penistone Urban District.	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts.	West Riding Admin. County.	England & Wales (Provisional figures).
Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population)	19.5	21.6	21.5	20.5
Death Rates (all per 1,000 estimated population) All causes	11.9	12.7	12.3	12.0
Zymotic Diseases*	—	0.16	0.16	**
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.34	0.38	0.39	0.47
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	0.17	0.09	0.09	0.08
Respiratory Diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system)	0.68	1.41	1.37	**
Cancer	1.36	1.87	1.80	1.85
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	5.26	4.23	3.98	**
Infant Mortality	26	44	45	41
Diarrhoea (Deaths of infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	—	5.17	5.31	5.8
Maternal Mortality (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births) Puerperal Sepsis	—	0.24	0.21	0.26
Other Causes	—	0.88	1.07	0.91
Total	—	1.12	1.28	1.17

* Combined death rate from Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea.
** Figures not available.

Infant Mortality.

There were 3 deaths of infants under the age of one year (1 male and 2 female). The infant mortality rate is 26 per 1,000 live births. One of the deaths was that of an illegitimate female child. The causes of death were Prematurity and Congenital diseases.

Epidemic Diseases.

There were two deaths in the Epidemic Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) Group during the year.

Inquests.

Only one inquest was held during the year, but in 3 cases the cause of death was certified by the Coroner after Post Mortem Examination, without inquest.

Distribution of Infectious Diseases by Age Groups.

Age Group.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Diphtheria.	Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis.
Under 1 year	12	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
1– 2 years ..	19	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
2– 3 ,, ..	26	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
3– 4 ,, ..	35	3	—	2	1	—	—	—
4– 5 ,, ..	40	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
5–10 ,, ..	113	4	—	5	—	—	—	1
10–15 ,, ..	6	1	—	7	—	1	—	—
15–25 ,, ..	4	—	—	7	—	—	1	—
25–35 ,, ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
35–45 ,, ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45–65 ,, ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	256	18	3	23	4	1	1	2

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

During the year a total of 308 cases of Infectious Disease were notified. They were distributed as follows :-

Measles	256
Whooping Cough	18
Erysipelas	3
Scarlet Fever	23
Pneumonia	4
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1
Diphtheria	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	2

Attack Rate of Commoner Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	England & Wales.	148 Smaller Towns.	Penistone U.D.
Scarlet Fever	1.37	1.54	3.90
Measles	9.41	9.58	43.45
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.02	3.04
Diphtheria	0.13	0.14	0.17
Pneumonia	0.79	0.68	0.70
Erysipelas	0.19	0.18	0.51
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	0.05	0.05	0.17
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00

Scarlet Fever.

23 Cases were notified during the year. The disease was mild in character and the cases were not confined to any one locality in the district.

Diphtheria.

During the year one case was notified.

Immunisation was carried out as in previous years. The Authority responsible for the scheme of Diphtheria Immunisation is the West Riding County Council, and facilities are available for obtaining treatment at Child Welfare Centres, Schools, and by General Practitioners. The number of children immunised during the year was 92. I think that the percentage of protected children in the area is well up to the average, but it would be an extremely dangerous practice to let this fact engender complacency. Rather must we use all our propaganda efforts to convince lazy and ignorant parents of the risks they expose their children to, by not having protective treatment given.

Measles.

There was an increase in the incidence of Measles during 1947. No less than 256 cases were notified. The beginning of the year was practically free from Measles, but an epidemic developed in the second quarter. This was widespread throughout the area, but the districts most heavily affected were Penistone, Thurlstone and Hoylandswaine.

Whooping Cough.

The number of cases notified was 18.

One wonders, however, whether all cases of Whooping Cough and Measles for that matter, do come to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health. How often have you heard of Measles invading a home, and the immediate reaction is to say "all children get Measles, it could not have been avoided." The same thing applies to Whooping Cough. How often have you heard a whoop as you have gone about your daily tasks? We must get rid of these reactions. We must convince parents that these children are seriously ill. They should be put to bed and kept there until the DOCTOR says that they are free to go about again. More adequate preventive measures in the home would undoubtedly play a big part in the control of these infectious conditions.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

There was only 1 case of this disease notified and unfortunately the patient died.

Pneumonia.

There were 4 cases of Pneumonia notified during the year. Of these 2 were Acute Primary Pneumonia and 2 Acute Influenzal Pneumonia. There were no deaths.

Poliomyelitis.

There were 2 cases of this disease notified; there were no deaths.

This disease—more commonly known by the unfortunate name of Infantile Paralysis—became epidemic throughout the Country during 1947. There were two forms of the disease—Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis and Acute Polioencephalitis. Yet every case attacked did not suffer the distressing after effects consequent upon damage to the Central Nervous System. Some made a complete recovery, others suffered a varying degree of paralysis.

This epidemic has stimulated interest in this disease, both from a clinical and epidemiological point of view. Research work is now going on in the hope that the disease can be tackled as others have been tackled. Great advances have been made in the technique of early diagnosis of suspected cases both clinically and by the aid of the Laboratory. Intensive study of the early treatment methods has also been carried out and the remedial treatment for the cases affected—more in the province of the Orthopaedic Specialist—has been greatly intensified.

All the recommendations of the Ministry of Health to deal with the outbreak were carried into effect in this district. Early Hospitalisation was assured—the County Council met the cost of an Orthopaedic Specialist's consultation at an early stage of the illness, and the County Council provided remedial and rehabilitation treatment at the Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield. The latter treatment was provided free of cost to all children of School age as authorised under Section 48 (3) of the Education Act, 1944. All other cases were subject to the provisions of Section 184 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and costs were recoverable. However, in view of the divergence of opinion as to whether or not the resulting effects were actually an infectious disease, the County Council agreed to waive the implications of this Section of the Act and did not seek any recovery of costs.

Tuberculosis.

There were 3 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year: 2 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary. There were also 3 deaths.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Infestations.

No case of infestation was brought to my notice during 1947.

General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases.—Cases of infectious Disease are treated at the Penistone Joint Isolation Hospital. Accommodation is also provided by the Joint Hospital Board for cases of Smallpox. Arrangements have also been made for the more severe types of Infectious Disease to be admitted to the Lodge Moor Isolation Hospital, Sheffield.

Maternity.—Arrangements were made by the West Riding County Council for admission to the Princess Royal Maternity Home, Huddersfield, the St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley, and the various County Maternity Homes and Hospitals.

Laboratory Facilities.

All the necessary facilities for bacteriological laboratory work are available at the Wakefield Laboratory of the Medical Research Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

For cases of Infectious Diseases the Ambulance of the Penistone Joint Hospital Board is used.

The Council subscribes to the upkeep of an Ambulance provided by public subscription and administered by a Committee comprising members of the Authority, the neighbouring Rural District and local organisations.

Clinics.

An Infant Welfare Centre is established at the Shrewsbury Road Methodist Church, and this appears to adequately meet the needs of the area. In addition, Ante-Natal and Minor Ailment Clinics are also held there.

Tuberculosis.

The whole of the area is served by the Dispensary at the Wesleyan Sunday School, Penistone, which is held on the first and third Thursdays in each month.

Venereal Diseases.

Treatment is available at Centres in Barnsley, Huddersfield and Sheffield, particulars of which are given below :—

	Days and Hours of Attendance.	
Address.	*Men.*	*Women.*
Barnsley :	Mon., 6–8 p.m.	Mon., 2.30–4.30 p.m.
Queens Road.	Thurs., 6–8.30 p.m.	Thurs., 2.30–6.0 p.m.
Sheffield :		Tues., 4.0–6.0 p.m.
Jessop Hospital for Women.	—	Thurs., 4.0–6.0 p.m.
		Sat., 11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.
Royal Hospital.	Tues., 6.0 p.m.	Thurs., 11.0 a.m.
	Thurs., 6.0 p.m.	Fri., 6.0 p.m.
Royal Infirmary.	Tues., 5–7 p.m.	Tues., 2.0–4.0 p.m.
	Wed., 5–8 p.m.	—
	Fri., 6–8 p.m.	—

Address.	Days and Hours of Attendance. Men.	Women.
Huddersfield : York Place, New North Road.	Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. 6–8 p.m. Wed., 10–12 noon.	Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. 6.0–8.0 p.m. Wed., 10.0–12.0 noon.

Mortuary.

The Mortuary at Penistone serves the entire area.

Sanitary Circumstances.

(Prepared by Mr. Holdsworth.)

THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE—6246.

Dwelling-Houses.

Inspections not under Housing Regulations	444
Inspections under Housing Regulations	2
Re-inspections not under Housing Regulations	858
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations	4
Number of visits made as a result of Complaints received	308

Number of Visits to :

Slaughter Houses	12
Butchers' Shops	2
Greengrocers	2
Bakehouses	6
Cowsheds	86
Dairies	48
Other Food Premises	9
Factories with Power	64
Factories without Power	51
Places of Amusement	1
Public Conveniences	3
Market	352
Sewage Works	406
Ice-cream Shops	6
Common Lodging House	2
Other inspections or visits	3391

Infectious Disease.

Primary inspections *re* Infectious Disease	25
Re-inspections *re* Infectious Disease	1
Number of rooms disinfected after Infectious Disease	23

Drainage.

Chemical tests applied	2
Smoke tests applied	5
Water tests applied	67
Colour tests applied	8
New lengths inspected	58
Total	6246

NUISANCES, ETC., ON BOOKS, WITH NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED.

Number of Notices on books, 31st December, 1946	160
Number of nuisances or insanitary conditions reported during the year	641
Number of Informal Notices served during the year	641
Number of Nuisances or Insanitary Conditions abated	652
Number of Notices not complied with, 31st December, 1947	149

Notices not complied with include :

Housing repairs : Housing Acts	73
Insufficient drains	4
Insanitary privies	71
Works of repair to Cowsheds	1
Total	149

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

House Repairs.

Chimney Stacks pointed	2
Chimney Pots renewed	8
Roofs repaired	51
Walls re-pointed or repaired	13
Eaves Gutters repaired	28
Steps repaired	2
Yards or paths repaired or renewed	3
Defective Ashbins replaced or additional Bins provided	53
Flushing Cisterns repaired, renewed or provided	44
Sinks provided or refixed	12
New W.C. Pans fitted	54
W.C. Seats repaired or renewed	1
Ball Valves repaired	55
Floors repaired or renewed	13
Wall Plaster repaired	15
Ceiling Plaster repaired	37
Windows repaired or renewed	28
Fall Pipes repaired or renewed	7
Soil Pipes repaired	21

Hot Water Systems repaired	30
Defective Taps repaired	59
Sash Cords provided	4
Fire-ranges repaired or renewed	75
Draining Boards repaired	5
Waste pipes to sinks, lavatory basins, etc., repaired or renewed	16
Electric Circuit defects remedied	15
Burst Pipes repaired	92
Gas Pipes repaired	4
Clothes Posts repaired or renewed	5
Washing Coppers repaired or renewed	13
Doors repaired	75
Gates repaired	12
Fencing repaired	7

Other Nuisances Abated.

Sewers repaired or cleared	14
Drains repaired, cleared, overhauled, re-laid or extended	57
Inspection Chambers provided	7
New Gullies provided	4
Cesspools provided	2
New Vent. Shafts fixed	2
New Intercepting Traps fixed	3
Manure Heaps removed	2
Filthy Houses cleansed	2
Rat Infestations abated	45
Ice-cream Premises improved	2

Milk and Foods.

Bakehouses limewashed	4
Cowsheds limewashed	86

Conditions on many farms within the area are unsatisfactary, largely due to the fact that mains water is not connected to the farms in many cases.

A further unsatisfactory condition of our farm premises is the absence of a proper dairy with suitable facilities for cooling milk.

It is hoped that within the next few years conditions in these respects will be improved.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat Inspection.

During the year post-mortem inspection was made on 26 Pigs.

The total weight of Meat and Offal condemned, as a result of this inspection, was 174 lbs., or 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 6 lbs., being Tubercular.

In addition to the above, 20 lbs. of Tea, 10 lbs. of Oatmeal, 9½ lbs. Ground Barley, 140 lbs. Fish, 4 lbs. Peas, 22–2 oz. Packets of Bisto and 42 lbs. 10 oz. of Tinned Foods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Closet Accommodation.

Approximate number of	Water Closets	960
,, ,,	Pail Closets	5
,, ,,	Privies	226
,, ,,	Waste Water Closets ..	25

There have been 21 changes from the conservancy system to the water carriage system during the year.

Housing Estate Management and Maintenance.

Works of repair on the Council's Estates were pressed forward during the year.

The Council's Building Staff spent a fair proportion of their time on the erection of the new Depot, and clearing up the site of the old cottages.

The year 1948 should see the majority of the complaints still outstanding, remedied.

The painting of Park Avenue and Westfield Avenue by Mr. Hyde, in accordance with his contract, was satisfactorily carried out. Twenty houses on the Cubley Estate were painted by the Council's workmen.

Sewage Works and Sewerage.

Works of improvement have been carried out at both Thurlstone and Spring Vale.

I would, however, again remind you that major works are required at Spring Vale. All six distributors are in poor condition and will need to be replaced or reconditioned in the near future.

The Thurlstone Works are functioning fairly well. Difficulty is only experienced during very dry weather, when the flow of sewage is negligible. Conditions will be greatly improved when the new houses are built at Thurlstone and Millhouse, and the existing insanitary privies in these areas are replaced with water closets. The extra flow of sewage will help us to maintain the beds in better order.

Cattle Market.

The roofs of the Cattle Market Buildings have been repaired, new gutters have been provided between the ring and the tieing-up shed adjoining, and the roof of the long covered stand has been treated with bitumen.

Government Evacuation Scheme.

At the commencement of the year 2 evacuated children were still billeted in the district. One ceased to be billeted during the year.

Control of Civil Building.

163 Applications for Building Licences were received, all of which were approved, and the licences subsequently issued.

Erection of New Buildings.

48 Plans were submitted for the erection of new buildings, etc., within the area, 46 of which were approved.

In all cases where the works have been carried out, such work was carried out satisfactorily.

The supervision of the erection of new Council Houses on the Royd Lane, Westfield Avenue and Cubley Sites has accounted for a great proportion of my time. That, coupled with the fact that the Control of Civil Building also takes up a terrific amount of time, has meant that the Department has been working at high pressure throughout the year.

The Council's decision in June that Mr. Brogan should assist the Surveyor temporarily, has been a severe blow, and I hope that arrangements will be made in the new year for Mr. Brogan's return to the Department in full-time capacity.

Movable Dwellings.

Two licences were renewed for the use of land as sites for Movable Dwellings.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service has been carried out satisfactorily during the year. Tipping at Wentworth Road, however, was only carried out at frequent intervals, due to the fact that I was short of labour.

I think credit is due to the workmen who carried on their job in the face of great difficulties.

The dustmen, in addition to collecting house-refuse and salvage, have been responsible for the maintenance of sewers and drains on Council-owned property, and this, coupled to the fact that during the year we have experienced difficulty in carrying on due to the illness, in turn, of workmen, made their job much more difficult.

Salvage.

The sale of salvage during the year realised the sum of £212 17s. 4d.

The amount of salvage collected was much lower than might normally have been the case, due to the fact that for over two months no salvage was collected, due to the heavy snows experienced. The total collected compares favourably with that of other districts.

I should, however, be better pleased if more paper, rags and bones were put out for Salvage. Paper, in particular, is often seen in dustbins, or is burnt, instead of being put out separately for the dustmen to collect. It should be impressed upon the public in general, that there is still an urgent need for salvage, particularly paper, rags and bones.

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